

**MINUTES OF THE
LEGISLATIVE PROCESS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, July 13, 2000 - 9:00 a.m. - Room 403 - State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Leonard M. Blackham, Senate Chair
Rep. Melvin R. Brown, House Chair
Sen. D. Edgar Allen
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Brent H. Goodfellow
Rep. Raymond W. Short

Members Absent:

Sen. Terry Spencer

Members Excused:

Rep. Evan L. Olsen

Staff Present:

Mr. Stewart E. Smith,
Managing Research Analyst
Mr. John L. Fellows,
Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney,
Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and copies of materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

1. Call to Order - Chair Blackham called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m.

2. Committee Business -

MOTION: Rep. Brown moved to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2000 meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Rep. Goodfellow absent for the vote.

3. Bill Summaries - Chair Blackham noted that this issue was discussed at the last meeting and that follow-up was requested by the committee regarding bill summaries for this meeting.

Mr. Stewart Smith, Managing Research Analyst, distributed a packet, "Bill Summaries," and presented a brief overview.

Rep. Arent suggested that when amendments to a bill are prepared that the attorney also amend the long title at the same time for consistency.

Chair Blackham asked that Rep. Arent's comment be directed to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel.

MOTION: Rep. Brown moved to recommend that staff draft the narrative form of long title summary format on the bill. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Blackham asked staff to draft a letter to the Legislative Management Committee, recommending that this procedural change be reviewed and also that the narrative form of long title summaries be placed on the bills before the session.

4. Discussion on Broadcasting During Session - Ms. Jane Peterson, Information Coordinator, and Ms. Chris Calcut, Computer Specialist, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, distributed a packet, "Live Broadcasting VIA the Intranet / Internet." Ms. Peterson presented an overview on how other states are handling their legislative proceeding in live broadcasting. She explained the difference between the service of Intranet and Internet. She also briefed the committee on the coverage, usage, implementation, and cost in other states for live broadcasting.

Rep. Short described the new committee room that is being built on the first floor of the capitol. He said it will have wireless microphones, digital sound, and installed video equipment. He indicated that it will be the committee room of the future.

Chair Blackham said live broadcasting would require adjustment time. He expressed concern that private conversations could possibly be heard over the broadcast.

Rep. Brown suggested pondering this issue and that no action be taken.

Rep. Short suggested using the new committee room as a trial experiment to view what is needed for the legislature in being most effective.

Rep. Short referred to the Texas Legislature and explained their process of controlling space in committee rooms. He expressed concern with the media and their access to the floor during the session.

MOTION: Rep. Brown suggested adding the issue of press accessibility on the floor during the general session to the agenda for the next committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Karen Silver, Salt Lake Community Action Program, spoke in support of live broadcasting. She said this would solve the problem for low income people and those individuals in rural areas that cannot attend the meetings.

MOTION: Sen. Allen moved that the house, senate, and committee proceedings be broadcast over the Internet. The motion failed, with Sen. Blackham, Rep. Brown, and Rep. Short voting in opposition.

5. Sunset Reviews - Mr. Smith distributed a packet, "Sunset Reviews," and presented an overview of current legislation and procedural changes since the sunset review process began in 1977. He presented a report identifying who conducts sunset reviews in other states.

Rep. Short expressed concern that sunset review periods are too long. Many legislators do not serve for ten years, consequently, there is limited knowledge about the purpose for a program or agency when it is reviewed. He suggested changing the standard reauthorization period for an agency from ten to six years.

MOTION: Rep. Brown moved to direct staff to research what other states are doing with the process of sunset reviews. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Other Items - The committee scheduled its next meeting of the Legislative Process Committee on Tuesday, August 15, 2000 at 9:00 a.m., and Thursday, October 19, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.

7. Adjourn -

MOTION: Rep. Short moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:28 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

